GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:378
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2000
TRADE AGREEMENTS
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of trade agreements /MOUs signed by the Union Government with various countries during 1999-2000, till June, 2000, with a view to promoting bilateral trade and export of various items, particularly food items, spices and cash crops;

(b) whether export of these items has increased as a result thereof;

(c) if so, to what extent and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO (A) TO (D) OF THE L. S. STARRED QUESTION NO.378 FOR 18.8.2000 REGARDING TRADE AGREEMENTS.

a) Outside the context of Multilateral Trading System under the WTO, the bilateral trade agreements signed by India between 1.4.99 and 30.6.2000 are with Tanzania, Mauritius, Portugal, Sudan and Tunisia. The details of these agreements are as follows:-

i) An agreement on Economic and Industrial Cooperation between India and Portugal was signed in Lisbon on 31.3.2000 by our Minister for External Affairs and his Portuguese counterpart. This agreement, inter-alia, provides for re-enforcement of bilateral economic relationship including the two way flow of trade and investment through measures such as grant of mutual MFN treatment, joint ventures, participation in fairs and exhibitions, exchange of technologies, exchange of information etc.

ii) Trade agreement between India and Tanzania was signed on 14.1.2000 at Dar-es-salaam and another trade agreement between India and Mauritius was signed on 10.3.2000 at Port Louis, Mauritius. These two trade agreements aim at increasing trade between the contracting parties on the basis of mutual interest and benefit. However, items to be traded are not listed specifically in the trade agreements nor were the trade agreements signed specifically to promote exports of food items and spices in particular.

iii) In June, 2000, a trade agreement was signed by India with Sudan and an existing trade agreement between India and Tunisia signed in September, 1994 was revalidated in June, 2000 to increase bilateral trade.

Besides, 7 Agreements/MOUs have been signed in the field of agriculture with various countries the details of which are given in the following table:-

Date of Signing	Country	Subject
15.4.99	Netherlands	Plant quarantine issues.
16.4.99	Russia	Cooperation in veterinary field
22.1.2000	Bangladesh	Agriculture
18.2.2000	Cambodia	Cooperation in the fields of agriculture science and technology, animal husbandry and food processing
31.3.2000	Turkey	Cooperation in the field of agriculture science and technology, agricultural production and agro processing and economic cooperation.
5.4.2000	Tunisia	Cooperation in the field of agriculture.

2.5.2000 Uzbekistan Cooperation in the field of agricultural research and education.

b) In view of the recent conclusion of these Agreements/ MOUs, it is too early to assess their results.

c) & d) Do not arise.